



October 21, 2024

No person is an island—or a choir.

This past week's mail brought a letter introducing the 35th season of the Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys, founded and directed by a Grand Rapids Christian High School classmate of mine, Scott Bosscher. What he had to say about faith and music in community is worth sharing, especially after the glorious choir and orchestra concert of Fauré's music at our church last week Sunday.

Scott writes:

"Taking time out from our busy lives to gather in inspired sacred spaces to experience God's presence together through music, scripture and poetry is restorative. By doing so we individually and collectively inspire ourselves to enter more deeply into lives of faith and hope."

"Faith is deeply personal, but it isn't private. By its nature, faith is communal. Faith must be internalized, but it is always expressed, strengthened and lived out with others. People may say they want to believe but not belong, that they prefer private spirituality, whatever that might mean, to communal worship. They may want to have God as Father but to remain an only child. But that is not how God works."

"The same is true for music; music calls us into community...there is no such thing as a choir of one."

We give thanks for the marvelous gifts that our community choir and orchestra have given to us. *'In paradisum deducant angeli'*."

~Written by Ruth Griffioen

Quoted paragraphs by Scott Bosscher of the Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys (grcmb.org <<http://grcmb.org/>>)

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